

<u>Group</u>	<u>Species</u>
I	Figures 1-3, (Claims 1, 4 and 10);
II	Figure 4, (Claims 1 and 10);
III	Figures 5 and 6, (Claims 1-3, 5, 9 and 10);

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Figures 1-6 illustrate aspects of embodiments of an invention and that Applicants are entitled to disclose a reasonable number of embodiments in an application. Therefore, Applicants submit that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search the embodiments of the invention disclosed in the application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election Requirement. However, in the event that the Election requirement is maintained the Applicants provisionally elect Group 1 (Figures 1-3) and the corresponding previously pending claims 1, 4, and 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the remarks herein and the concurrently filed preliminary amendment, all of the pending claims should be examined on their merits. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 10 have been deemed generic by the Examiner. Similarly, Applicants submit that the new claim 12 is generic to the species identified by the Examiner. Therefore, because the remaining pending claims (2-9 and 11) are directly or indirectly dependent on generic independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no undue burden to search claims 1-12 as a group.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the alleged species are various embodiments of an invention, implementing a visually based calendar comprising a series of representative areas as segments of a familiar object/illustration. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election requirement.

The following discussion is based on the originally filed drawings that have been annotated to reflect the description in the specification for embodiments of the invention. For example, in a first embodiment, a human hand is divided into representative areas that correspond to the days of the week, as shown in the annotated Fig. 1 and described in the specification on page 4, lines 1-7.

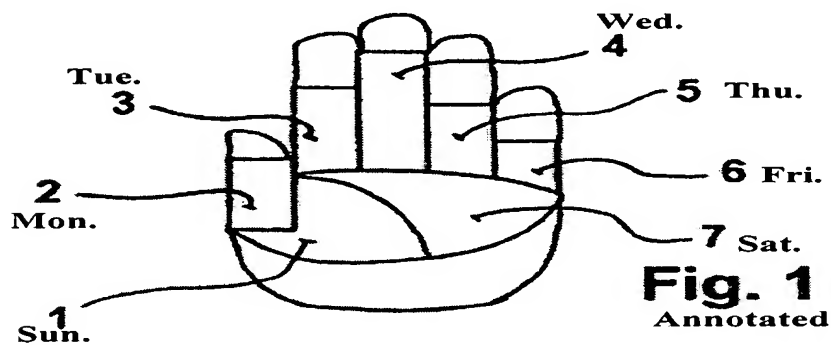
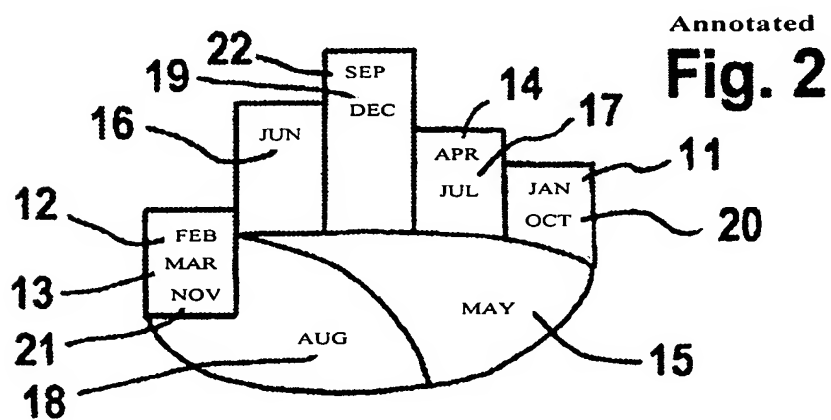
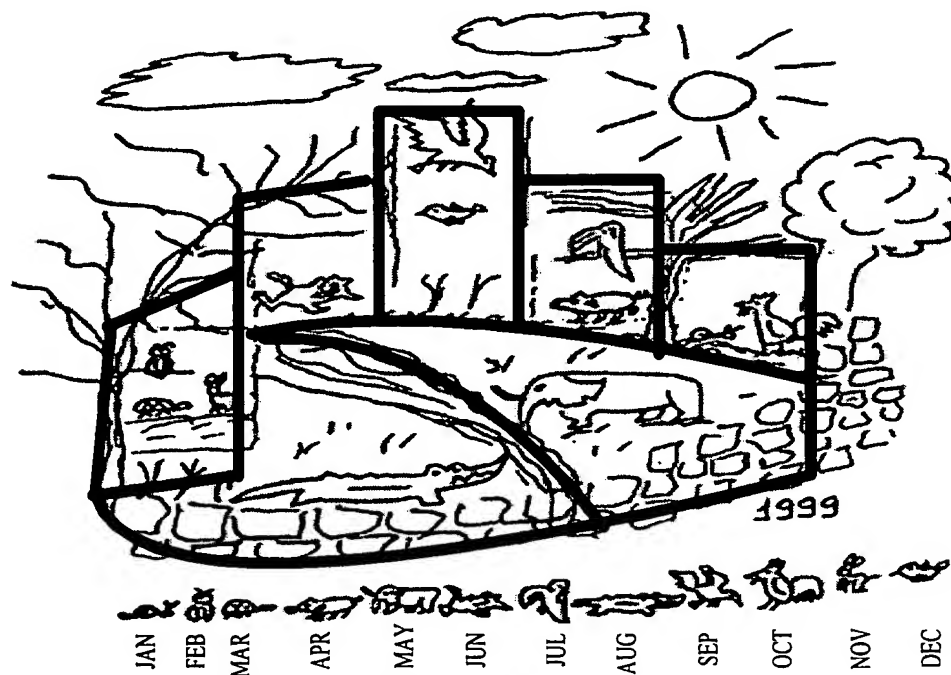


Fig. 2 illustrates the next step in the process, specifically, once seven representative areas have been established, the months of the year can also be mapped onto representative areas of the human hand. For example, as described in the specification on page 4, lines 7-15, “[the] twelve rectangles [shown in the original filed drawings]...[may be replaced with] January (11), February (12), March (13), April (14)...” (as shown herein).



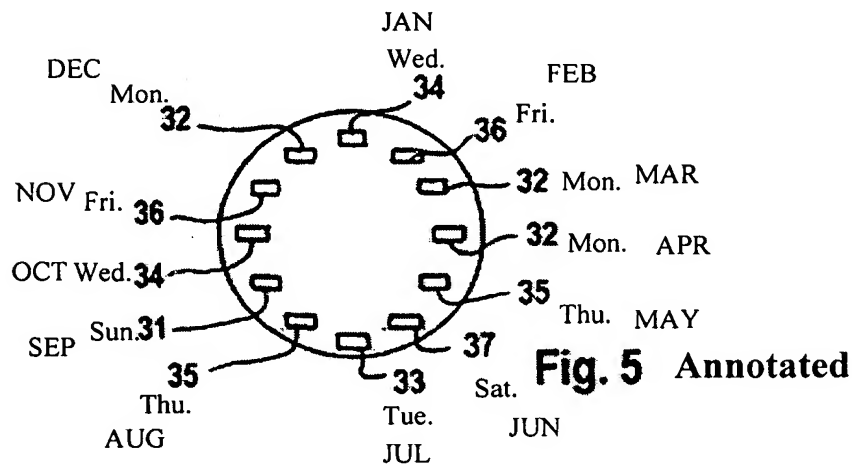
An embodiment of the invention may involve associating a set of familiar objects with the segments of the representative areas. For example, as discussed in the specification on page 4, lines 22-27, "twelve animals, each one representing one of the twelve months of the year...[may be] distributed in seven groups, [which have] as background a landscape that [suggests] a linking with [the] areas of the human hand."



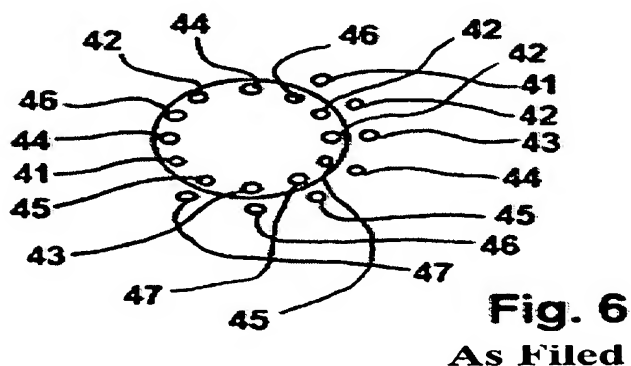
Annotated Fig. 4

As shown in the annotated Fig. 4 and described in the specification on page 4, lines 22-27, the background may be based on the hand embodiment for establishing the seven representative areas as in Fig. 2. Alternately, the months of the year may be mapped to either corresponding rectangles (as shown in the originally filed drawing) or as in annotated Fig. 4, mapped to a selection of animals or other representative objects. As in the first embodiment, the seven representative areas may be arranged in the basic pattern of the human hand or another familiar representative tool.

Another embodiment of the invention discussed with regard to Figs. 5 and 6 in the specification, applies representative areas to segments of a face of a clock. Specifically, as described in the specification on pages 4-5, Fig. 5 illustrates the clock embodiment of the invention, wherein the twelve hour positions on a clock may correspond to the twelve months of the year, as well as various days of the week.



Furthermore, as shown, Fig. 6 complements Fig. 5 by providing seven additional areas (elements 41-47) distributed around the outer circumference of the face of the clock that may also be provide a key/legend for a color-coded embodiment.



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Paper dated August 12, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated February 12, 2004

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that there is no undue burden to search the generic independent claims 1, 10 and 12, as well as the claims dependent therefrom. Should the Election be made final, Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected species II and III (corresponding to Figures 4, 5 and 6) in divisional applications, if necessary.

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CONCLUSION


Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination on the merits.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 4358-4000.

Respectfully submitted,
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